



ALAMO STATION WELCOME HANDBOOK

Last updated - August 2005









INSCOM

U.S Army Intelligence and Security Command



470th Military Intelligence Brigade






-  Operations Battalion
-  204th Military Intelligence Battalion
-  377th Military Intelligence Battalion
-  339th Military Intelligence Battalion



314th Military Intelligence Battalion



-  Headquarters and Headquarters Company
-  A Company
-  B Company



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
314th MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78243-7140

Office of the Battalion Commander

14 June 2005

Welcome to the 314th Military Intelligence Battalion, also known as Alamo Station! I am pleased that you will be joining our team as we begin to tackle the technological challenges of the future. Your professional expertise and dedicated efforts are required to keep us on the cutting edge. Our Battalion's mission is absolutely vital to protecting and promoting U.S national interests. I am certain that you will find the work challenging and rewarding. You will be on the front lines supporting real world operations each and every day. We need high quality Soldiers like you to help this Battalion in fulfilling its role of ensuring 'Information Superiority for America and her Allies'. Once again, I am most pleased that you will be joining us. I look forward to personally greeting you upon your arrival.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER P. HIMSL
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding Officer

History of the 314th Military Intelligence Battalion



The 314th Military Intelligence Battalion, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade has been a part of the Army's rich heritage for over 60 years. Soldiers of this unit follow in the footsteps of great Military Intelligence professionals.

The legacy began in 1942 as Monitor Station One in Vint Hill Farms, Warrenton, Virginia. Monitor Station One was re-designated Vint Hill Farms Station and remained in Virginia until it was relocated to Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas in 1973. This move changed the designation to the United States Army Security Agency Field Station, San Antonio. Looking to further identify with San Antonio, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas granted permission to designate the Field Station as Alamo Station in July of 1974. Alamo Station operated as part of the Consolidated Security Operations Center (CSOC), a United States Army and Air Force jointly manned facility. Redesignation occurred again in May of 1980, to the United States Army Field Station, San Antonio.

United States Army Field Station, San Antonio became the 748th Military Intelligence Battalion on 1 January 1988. That same year on 1 June, the 749th MI Company, Key West, Florida was subordinated to the 748th MI Bn. The 749th MI Company was inactivated on 1 September 1993 and moved here to become Bravo Company. On 19 August 1993, the designation of the multi-service CSOC was changed to the Medina Regional Security Operations Center (MRSOC). On 11 January 2005, the MRSOC was redesignated as the National Security Agency/Central Security Service, Texas (NSA/CSS Texas).

The Regional Technical Control and Analysis Element Medina (RTCAE-M) was stood-up by the 748th MI Bn in June of 1995. The RTCAE-M became operational August 1995 and was fully functional in September. Officially designated as Delta Detachment, 201st MI Bn, 513th MI Brigade in October of 1997, the RTCAE-M was attached to the 748th MI Bn for operational and administrative control.

On 1 June 1996, the 748th was resubordinated from the 704th MI Brigade located at Fort Meade, MD to the 702nd MI Group, Fort Gordon, GA. Four years later the 748th MI Bn conducted a reflagging ceremony that officially changed the unit's designation from the 748th MI Bn to the 314th MI Bn, along with the 702nd MI Group who reflagged to become the 116th MI Group. The 314th MI Bn was resubordinated to the newly formed 470th MI Group in August 2003. On 1 January 2005 RTCAE-M and Swift Canopy were combined to form Charlie Company, which was activated –then detached from the 314th MI Bn, completing the present organization of Alamo Station.

The following awards for Cryptologic Excellence have been received by the 748th MI Bn: Alamo Station operating as part of the CSOC, was the recipient of the Travis Trophy in 1975, which is presented to the most outstanding Service Cryptologic Unit for that year. The Alamo Station additionally received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period of 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1977. Current award history shows that the 314th MI Bn received four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards for the periods FY 1995, 1998, 2000, and again in 2003 with valor. The 314th was also awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service from June 1999 to 2002. The 314th MI Bn has campaign credit in WWII for Ryukyus, Presidential unit citation (Army), and battle streamer embroidered Okinawa.

The 314th Military Intelligence Battalion continues the legacy, to operate as an integral part of NSA/CSS Texas, providing highly trained soldiers and civilians supporting 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year strategic intelligence missions.

Table of Contents

LTC Himsl's Welcome Letter	3
314th MI Bn History	4
Reporting to 314th MI Bn	6
Driving Directions	6
Maps of San Antonio	7
Barracks Life	8
Finding a Home in San Antonio	9
San Antonio School Districts	10-11
Higher Education in San Antonio	12
Family Care Information	13
Helpful Hints	14
Upon Receipt of Your Belongings	15
San Antonio Attractions	16
Throughout the Year	16
Army Community Services Information	17
TRICARE Information	18-19
San Antonio Facts	20
Map, Ft Sam Houston	21
Map, NSA/CSS Texas	22
Map, Lackland	23

Driving Directions

314th MI BN

314th MI Bn is located on the training annex of Lackland AFB. The **Medina Annex** is located off **Loop 410**, not US 90. From US 90, exit onto South Loop 410. Take the Medina Base Road exit. Follow the access road and turn right at the stoplight. Continue down Medina Base Rd until you reach the gate. Keeping on the same road that you entered, follow it around until you reach the parking lots. Park and head to the fenced in compound. Walk up to the Entry Control Point (ECP) and call for an escort to S-1. Duty uniform is BDUs. **You are restricted from carrying cell phones, any computer disks, PDAs, or any electronic devices on the compound.**

Barracks/SDNCO

If driving from the north side of San Antonio, travel on I-35 South (toward Laredo) until it intersects with **US 90 West**. Take US 90 West until you see the **Lackland AFB Southwest Military Drive exit**. Exit US 90 and turn left onto SW Military Dr. You will pass 4 stoplights and 3 gates. The fifth stoplight is the Security Hill Gate. Turn left and enter this gate. Once you enter the gate, turn left, following the road around. Take the first right onto Kirknewton St, you will not have a stop sign. Your first left will be Sarnoski St, take it and park anywhere on that road or the adjoining parking lots. The first building on the left is **Building 2010**, and **room 123** is the SDNCO office.

Reporting to the 314th MI Bn



Soldiers Reporting to the 314th Military Intelligence Battalion will NOT report to Ft. Sam Houston

During Duty Hours (0830-1630) report to: 314th MI Bn on the Lackland Training Annex (Medina). (See map and directions). You need a badge to gain access to the compound. Call from the Entry Control Point (ECP) to either your company, your sponsor, or S-1 to get an escort to S-1 to report to and sign in to the unit. **You are restricted from carrying cell phones, any computer disks, PDAs, or any electronic devices in the Work Compound.**

S-1: (210) 671-4482/4244

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC): (210) 671-1900/1901

Alpha Company: (210) 671-4596/0681

Bravo Company: (210) 671-0520/0756

Charlie Company: (210) 671-2703

Chaplain: (210) 671-4618/4491

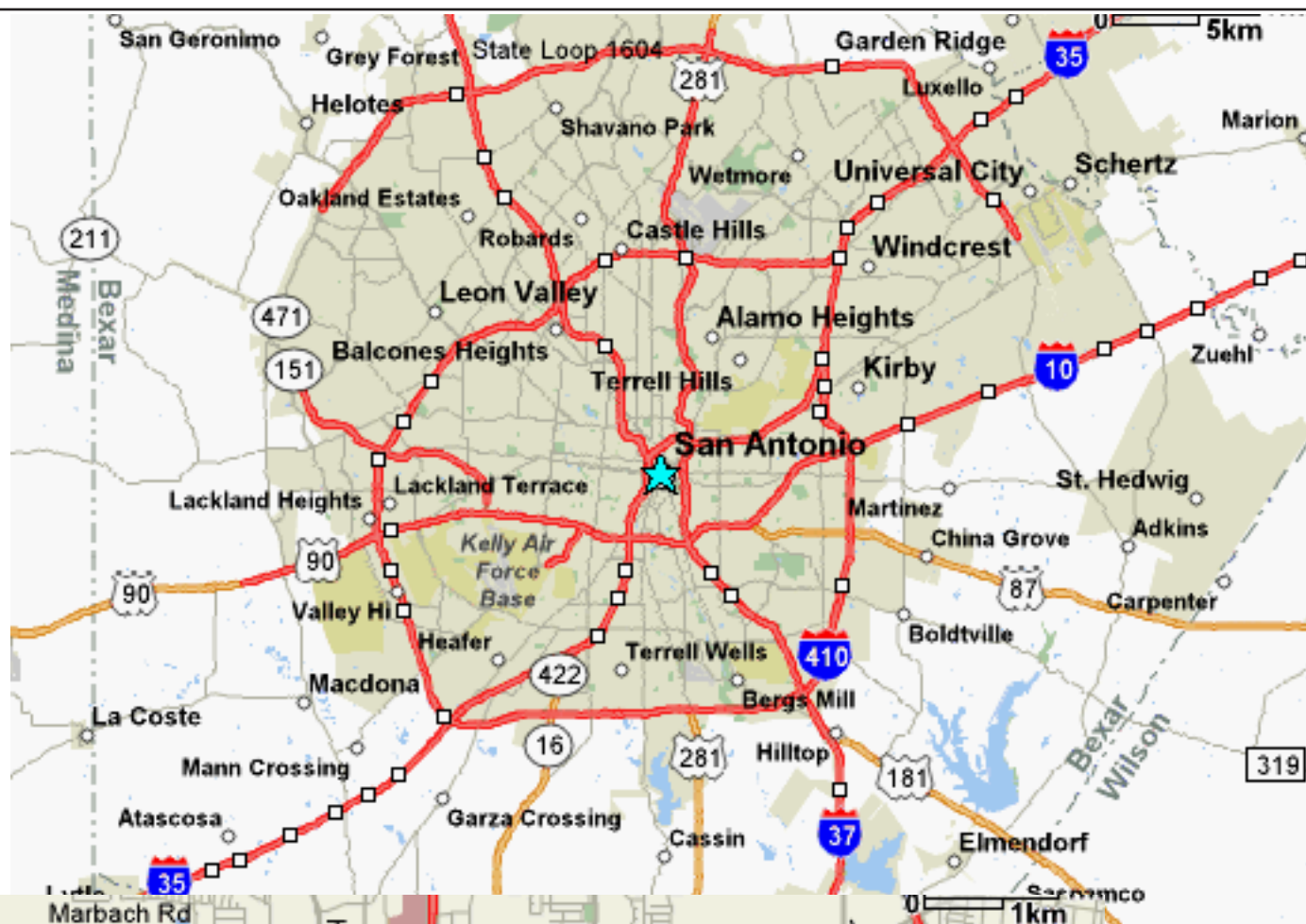


After Duty Hours (1630-0830) report to: Barracks SDNCO on the main Lackland Base. (See map and directions)

Barracks/SDNCO: (210) 925-0882

If you need further instructions, please contact the Staff Duty NCO or your sponsor.

Maps of San Antonio



Barracks Life

Single Soldiers E-1 to E-4: You will be issued a temporary barracks room if you sign in after duty hours or on the weekend. Monday, the Barracks NCO will issue you a permanent room. E-5 and above are automatically authorized to move out of the barracks. Depending on date of rank, some E-4s will also be automatically authorized to move out as well.

Single Soldiers E-5 and Above: You are automatically authorized to move off base. You are responsible for making hotel arrangements at the Airmen's quarters or a hotel until you can find a place to live.

♦ Each Soldier is authorized their own room which shares a bathroom with a suitemate.

Every room contains the following:

- Two wall lockers
- Six drawer chest
- Armoire
- Full sized bed
- One night stand
- Computer desk with book shelf
- Lamp
- Sink
- Full refrigerator
- Microwave



♦ The second and third floors have laundry rooms, and each floor has a day room.

♦ There is a gym, track, and recreation center across the street from the barracks. The shopette, chowhall, dry cleaners, and mailroom are around the corner on the next block within walking distance.

♦ Barracks Soldiers are expected to police themselves and their neighbors, as well as complete a weekly detail once every couple of weeks.

♦ Smoking is not permitted in the rooms.

♦ Rooms are inspected weekly depending on your company.

♦ In order to receive your mailing address, you will need to go to the Postal Service Center and sign in. They are open from 0830 to 1730 weekdays and from 0900 to 1200 on Saturdays.

Cable / Telephone / Internet hook-up

Cable TV/Roadrunner Internet

Myron Steele

Tel: (210) 254-8433

SBC – Telephone/ DSL

Residential: 1-800-464-7928

Street Address:

310 Sarnoski St, Bldg. 2011, Rm __

Lackland AFB, TX 78236

322 Sarnoski St, Bldg. 2010, Rm __

Lackland AFB, TX 78236

Mailing Address:

PSC 6

2261 Hughes Ave Unit 622__

Lackland AFB, TX 78236-2__

Finding a Home in San Antonio

Married Soldiers and Single Soldiers E5 & Above: You will be authorized off-post living quarters. Some Specialists are also authorized, depending on date of rank. When you get to the unit you need to report and sign into the unit, upon which you will be authorized 10 days PTDY to look for living quarters. If you use your leave and not the PTDY you will not be reimbursed for your hotel costs. You are authorized \$91 per diem for lodging and \$50 per day for food. Below are some hotel numbers that are close to Lackland Air Force Base. You can stay anywhere in town, but these are within ten minutes of base.

VAQ (Enlisted) Reservations on Lackland AFB: (210)671-2556

VOQ (Officer) on Lackland AFB: (210) 671-3622

Super 8 Motel: 210-678-0888

La Quinta Inn: (210) 674-3200

Lackland Travelodge: (210) 645-1561

Gateway Visitor Center: (210) 671-1386



Renting

Housing rent costs vary depending on the type and location in the city. The average rent of a one-bedroom apartment is \$475, two bedroom apartments \$655, and three bedroom apartments are around \$1000. Apartments on the North side of town are generally more expensive than the South side of town. The average commute time from Lackland AFB to Ft. Sam Houston is 20-35 minutes.

If you want to start your apartment search online, two helpful websites are: www.rent.com which offers \$100 should you find an apartment through them; or www.apartmentguide.com. You can also pick up an apartment guide book telling you cost, location and amenities at any gas station or grocery store when you get to San Antonio.

Lackland Housing Office has a rental partnership program with area apartment complexes. These communities have agreed to accommodate the military families' needs with lower-priced rents and added amenities while the military members agree to pay their rent by allotment. All apartment communities have access gates, intrusion alarms, or courtesy patrols. This is a win-win situation for the military and community. There are over 30 communities who participate in this program.

The housing office also holds a class for rental housing and rental partnership program every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 1000. The class offers valuable information on the rental process for either a home or an apartment in the San Antonio area.

It is most important for the military member to report to the housing office upon arrival to receive information on this program. Under the program, the military member does not pay a deposit for the apartment, application fees, and are automatically approved without a credit check.

The housing office number is (210) 671-1840.

The housing office also provides a deposit waiver for utilities and water service for residences. Simply bring in a copy of your lease or home purchase contract and a copy of your orders assigning you to Lackland AFB. It only takes a moment of your time to complete the Utility Deposit Deferral Form, which is then faxed to the proper utility company.

Buying a Home

A Home Buyer's Workshop is offered the second Wednesday of each month at Arnold Hall next to the Bob Hope Theatre on Stewart St, Lackland Training Side. Classes begin promptly at 0830 and ends at 1200. These classes educate the military and spouses on the Veteran's Administration (VA) contract required for a home purchase and the mortgage loan process. A representative from the VA and Texas Veterans Land Board are present as well as a tax advisor. Contact the Housing Referral Officer at (210) 671-1840 for further information on these classes.

For those families with children, it is recommended that you decide on a school district before buying a house. **San Antonio will not bus students across district boundaries.**

The median sale price for a home in San Antonio is \$112,000. Single-family homes are currently being developed at a price range of \$75,000 to \$200,000.

Base Housing

Lackland has a total of 1,211 family housing units. The units are rank-specific and available for grades E-3 to E-7. Applicants are selected from the base housing waiting list. Wait-times vary depending on rank.

The housing on-base number is (210) 671-1840.

San Antonio School Districts

The metropolitan city of San Antonio has many choices for you to further your education through private and state universities, 14 independent school districts, numerous private schools and several home schooling resources.

Public and DODDS Schools

For more Texas schools information please see

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/>



Age Requirements for Texas Public Schools by State Law:

Kindergarten: Child must be 5 years old on or before September 1st of the school year.

First Grade: Child must be 6 years old on or before September 1st.

Pre-kindergarten: Child must be 4 years old on or before 1 Sep. Children are accepted into the Pre-K program based on age and financial status. Evidence of income by either leave and earnings statement or check stub is required.

School usually begins on or after 21 August and ends around Memorial Day.

State law mandates parents/guardians provide proof that your children have been immunized against polio, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, red measles, and tuberculosis. Children will not be allowed to start school until all immunizations have been obtained and actual dates have been provided to the school. Take your child's birth certificate if he/she is entering school for the first time to verify age.

Required documentation:

Birth certificate

Immunization record

Proof of residency

Previous school transcripts or last report card

Child's social security card

SASID requires its students to wear uniforms. For more information on clothing requirements, call (210) 299-5799.

San Antonio has 14 independent school districts, each independently administered and accredited by the Texas Education Agency in Austin. Every school district has an elected school board and appointed superintendent. Children attend school in the district where his/her family address is located. **SA does not bus children across district boundaries** although, bus transportation is provided for individuals living at least 2 miles away from the school.

Magnet Schools – The Northside Independent School District and the business community have collaboratively combined their resources to create the innovated Northside Business Careers High Schools, located on the Holmes High School campus. BCHS prepares students for the business world by offering a curriculum of business courses. Qualified students can apply for admission. Call (210) 397-7070 for more information.

Health Careers High School – sponsored by the Northside Independent School District, offers curricula for both college bound students preparing for health-related professions. Out of district students may also attend. Students must meet GPA and TACS test standards before applying and are then entered into a lottery for acceptance. Call (210) 397-5400 for more information.

Fine Arts Magnet School – Opened by the community group Citizens for the Arts High School of SA, and is located at Jefferson High School. This school is sponsored by the SA independent School District. For more information, call (210) 736-1981.

Private schools are available in San Antonio as well as the public schools. Information on these schools may vary. Please refer to the following information sites:

www.sacatholicschools.org

www.homeschoolfeast.com



San Antonio School Districts

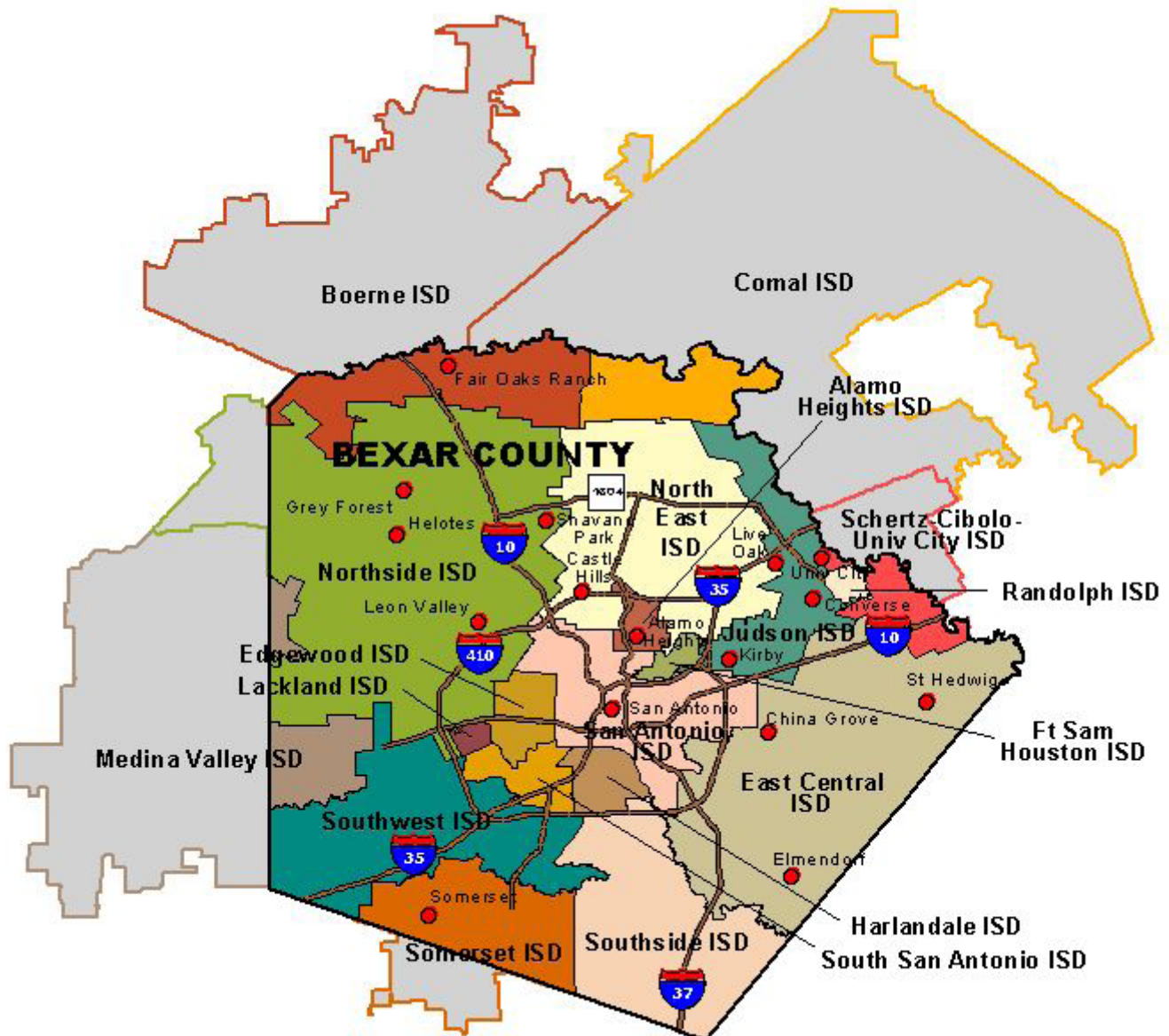
This is an overall map of the school districts in San Antonio. When you are connected to the site, it is interactive and allows you to pick and choose districts and find the boundaries for each school within each one individually. This page will also allow you to get into contact with district officials in order to answer any questions that you may have.



<http://www.saisd.net/>

San Antonio Independent School District

<http://penick.tea.state.tx.us/SchoolDistrictLocator/counties/r20/bexar.asp>



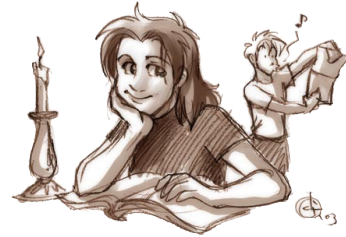
Higher Education in San Antonio

100% Tuition Assistance

Opportunities for pursuing higher education in the San Antonio cover almost every imaginable subject matter, education level, and type of school. The Soldiers of the 314th MI Bn must have tuition assistance signed at Fort Sam Houston; however, you may meet with schools and enroll at the university offices on Lackland AFB. The education office on Lackland is located in the building behind the carwash on Lackland's training side.

The Alamo Community College District includes the following:

Northwest Vista
Palo Alto
St. Phillips
San Antonio College
www.accd.edu



These community colleges offer a variety of Associate Degree programs and programs. St. Phillips offers classes on Lackland Base on a Flex schedule (2 months). These classes start at 1645-1900 and 1930-2200.

These community colleges also offer a 2 and 2 program. You can finish two years of credit at the community college, then transfer to a four-year university to earn your bachelors.

Four-year colleges and universities include:

Trinity University
www.trinity.edu
St. Mary's University (graduate school, law school, and post-graduate counseling as well)
www.stmarytx.edu
Our Lady of the Lake University
www.ollusa.edu
Wayland Baptist University
www.wbu.edu
Webster University (graduate school only)
www.webster.edu/sa

The Fort Sam Houston Army Continuing Education System administers tests and evaluative services. These include the CLEP program, DANTES, ACT prep exam, and PRAXIS Series. Education counseling services include basic skills, evaluation and training, preparation and practice test for GED, SAT, ACT, and CLEP exams. Distance learning computer lab and research computer labs are available.

The phone for ACES is 221-1738; hours are M-F 0730-1600 and 1700-2100.



Lackland AFB also allows the usage of their Education center for our Soldiers. Hours are Mon, Wed-Fri from 0730-1630, and Tue from 0730-1430.
(210) 671-2895/2896/2897

Family Care Information

Crime Victim Services 1 (800) 983-9933

Parenting Is For All (PIFA) class (210) 678-2008
7404 Hwy 90W
Suite 102, BLDG #1
San Antonio, TX 78227

SMART START (210) 65-SMART
Public Library (210) 207-2500

Sanantonio.gov/library

United Way (210) 227-HELP
Texas Education Agency Special Education Hotline
1 (800) 252-9668

Assistance Finding Child Care in Your Area

City of San Antonio, Department of Community 1 (800) 271-6797
Initiatives Children's Resources Division (KidCare) (210) 246-5276
Family Service Association

Dependent Care Connections (210) 225-5424

Child Care Delivery Services (CCDS)

Financial Assistance 210) 246-5200

Child Care Management Services (210) 246-5200

Questions About Growth and Development

Early Childhood Intervention 1 (800) 250-2246
Texas Department of Health, Family Health Services Information and Referral Line

1 (800) 422-2956

Texas Health Steps 1 (800) THSteps

Child Guidance Center of San Antonio

2135 Babcock (210) 614-7070

San Antonio, TX 78229 FAX (210) 615-0249

Lackland AFB has a Family Child Care center located in Mitchell Hall. This office has information on private in-home day care (on and off-base) as well as accredited centers in the community. The San Antonio Kid Care resource and referral will also assist you in locating child care in the San Antonio area. They can be reached at (210) 246-5276. The FCC office also has a map locating the child development centers accredited by The National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Helpful websites:

<http://www.naeyc.org/> - The National Association for the Education of Young Children website

<http://www.tdprs.state.tx.us> - To access child care by zip code (supported by the state of Texas)

The Lackland Family Child Care program accepts children with chronic health problems, including HIV-positive children, for care and employs persons, and approves as family child care providers, individuals with chronic health problems.

Name: Department of Community Initiatives POC: Children's Resource Division

Address: 1222 N. Main, Ste 300

City: San Antonio State: TX Zip: 78212

Phone: 210-246-5200 Fax: 210-246-5230

Provides comprehensive services directed towards caregivers and parents of children ages 0-13 or aged 17 if child has a disability.

Name: New Parent Support Program (NPSP) POC: Family Advocacy Program

Address: 2279 McChord Ave Bldg 1354

City: Lackland AFB State: TX Zip: 78236-5133

Phone: 210-292-5967 Fax: 210-671-2207

DSN Phone: 554-5967 DSN Fax: 473-2207

Hours: 0730-1615, Mon-Fri

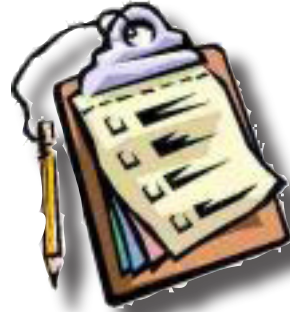


NPSP helps expectant and new parents meet the demands of their challenging and changing roles as mother, father and family. The program is designed to provide education, support, and information to high-risk childbearing age families regarding newborn, postpartum, parent/child and family health-related issues.

Helpful Hints

Family Document Checklist

- * Marriage Certificate
- * Birth Certificates for all family members
- * Shot records, up to date for all family members
- * Citizenship papers (if applicable)
- * Adoption papers (if applicable)
- * Passports and visas (if owned)
- * Armed Forces ID cards/ Tricare Cards
- * Life Insurance Policies
- * Wills for both spouses
- * 10 copies of orders
- * Copy of emergency data card for military personnel records
- * List of all credit card numbers
- * List of all bonds, certificates of deposit, stocks, ect...
- * Court orders relating to divorce, child support, or child custody
- * Copies of all installment contracts and loan papers
- * Certificate of title for each vehicle, insurance, for each operator
- * Last LES



Holidays

Second Monday in October	Columbus Day
11 November	Veterans' Day
Last Thursday in November	Thanksgiving Day
24 December	Christmas Eve
25 December	Christmas Day
1 January	New Year's Day
Third Monday in January	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Third Monday in February	Presidents Day
Last Monday in May	Memorial Day
4 July	Independence Day
First Monday in September	Labor Day



Links

DFAS Pay Charts and BAS:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/dfas/money/milpay/pay/paytable2005-rev1.doc>

DoD BAH:

<https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>

The Zip Code for the Lackland Annex is 78243

Texas Department of Transportation:

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/vtrreginfo.htm>

Upon Receipt of Your Belongings

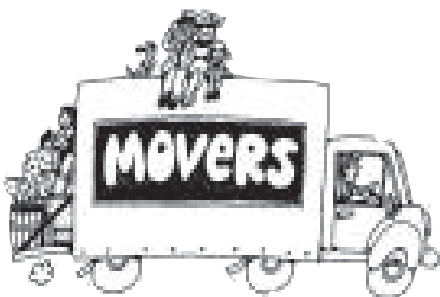
At Destination

- Contact the destination transportation office as soon as possible after your arrival even though you may not know the delivery address for your personal property. The transportation office needs a telephone number and/or address where you can be reached on short notice.
- As soon as you have a delivery address for your personal property, call the transportation office again and provide this information.
- If possible, be prepared to accept delivery of your property as soon as it arrives. This will prevent additional handling and reduce the chance of loss or damage. It will also reduce or eliminate storage expenses.
- You or your representative designated in writing must be home on the day of delivery.
- Know in advance where you want each piece of furniture placed in your new residence. The mover is required to place each piece only one time.
- Check each carton or item off the inventory. Make sure everything that was picked up is delivered.
- List any damaged or missing items with appropriate inventory numbers on the “Joint Statement of Loss or Damage at Delivery” (DD Form 1840) to avoid problems.
- Make sure you carefully look over your property and list any missing inventory line items or noticeable damage at this time.
- Do not sign for services if they were not performed by the carrier.
- Do not argue with the carrier. Contact the destination transportation office if problems arise.

Carrier’s Responsibilities at Destination

- You can expect the carrier to begin service between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The start and completion of any service provided by the carrier can vary depending on the type of move - that is, NTS, international shipment, etc. Contact your transportation office for specifics. However, if you have no objection to the carrier beginning service before or after these hours, let the destination transportation office know.
- At the time of delivery, the carrier must: Unpack and unwrap all cartons, boxes and crates.
- Place each item or carton in the room you indicate. This one-time placement includes placing unpacked articles in cabinets, cupboards or on kitchen shelves when convenient, safe and your desired location. (Have placement planned out before the carrier arrives. Movers are required to place each item only once.)
- Assemble all furniture and equipment disassembled by the movers at origin.
- Remove packing and blocking from appliances. (The carrier is not required to connect appliances to electric, gas or water outlets.)
- Remove all packing material resulting from the unpacking.
- Jointly with you, make a written record of any loss or damage on the DD Form 1840, “Joint Statement of Loss or Damage at Delivery,” sign the document and obtain your signature. The carrier’s representative must leave three copies of DD Form 1840/184OR with you.

Once the shipment has been delivered, the carrier is not required to deliver property to a self-storage facility. Beware: You may waive unpacking at any time during the delivery. However, the carrier is not required to return later to unpack or remove debris.



San Antonio Attractions

The Alamo

All four Spanish missions: San Jose, Espada, Concepcion, San Juan

Spanish Governor's Palace

San Fernando Cathedral

Institute of Texan Cultures

The Quadrangle, Ft. Sam Houston

San Antonio Botanical Gardens

Brackenridge Park

San Antonio Zoo

Witte Museum, including Treehouse Museum

Herzberg Circus Museum

Tower of the Americas

La Villita

Strawberry, Pear, Shrimp, Pecan Festivals

Market Square

San Antonio Museum of Fine Art

McNay Art Museum

Buckhorn Hall of Horns Museum

King Williams District, Steeves Homestead

IMAX Theater

Ft. Sam Harlequin Dinner Theater

San Antonio Missions baseball games

Rampage Hockey Games

Six-Flags Fiesta Texas

Sea World

Splashtown

San Antonio Spurs Games

Alamo Bowl/ Alamodome

Natural Caverns (underground caves)

Scobee Planetarium



Alamodome



The Alamo

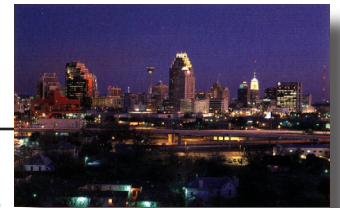


Throughout the Year

Throughout the year San Antonio holds many celebrations.

November brings the lighting of the Riverwalk the day after Thanksgiving. December is filled with numerous Christmas parades and processions. New Year's Eve gets crazy when the downtown is blocked off from traffic for parties. In January the city also hosts the Country and Western River Festival with a week of free country music. In February the biggest event is the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo; 16 Days of Western fun. March 1836 was the year the Battle of the Alamo was fought. Now each 6th of March, impressive ceremonies with old time soldiers marching up and down the street are held. Also in March is the St. Patrick's Day celebration complete with bag pipes, a parade, and the dying of the San Antonio River bright green. The week of April 21st brings Fiesta! This is a week long celebration celebrating Texas' independence from Mexico. School is cancelled for chil-

dren; special events are held at Ft. Sam Houston and Lackland, and there are many parades down the River Walk. Cinco de Mayo (the 5th of May) is another day to celebrate along with many of the Mexican-Americans living in San Antonio. There is always a special celebration to commemorate Juneteenth in San Antonio. This is the day the Texas slaves received their freedom from the Emancipation Proclamation. All around the city on July 4th fireworks light up the sky. The first weekend in August brings the Folklife festival – a four day event honoring the foods, crafts, singers and dancers of all cultures. The festival is held at the foot of the Tower of the Americas. In September Travis Park hosts the Annual Jazz Alive Celebration. October brings Oktoberfest, and the Spirits of San Antonio tour – a ghost tour showcasing one of the most haunted cities in the U.S. The zoo also hosts a trick-or-treat carnival for children along with all of the animals.

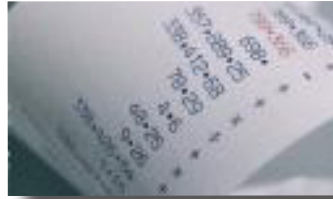


San Antonio Skyline



The Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum

Army Community Service Center



www.armycommunityservice.org/
www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com/acs/Default2.asp

The Army Community Service website offers excellent tools and advice on all aspects of relocation. They offer assistance in the following areas:

Relocation Readiness

In the middle of a move? Preparing for a PCS? Relocation Readiness can answer many of the questions you may have and provide you with useful information to make your move as easy as possible. There is a family welcome packet and a linen closet available at your disposal on Ft Sam.

Financial Readiness and AER

Learning to manage your money is a vital step towards securing your future. Financial readiness offers banking classes to teach you money management, bill consolidation courses, and a financial counselor for your financial assistance.

Family Employment Readiness

For military spouses finding new employment can be a difficult process. Look to Employment Readiness for helpful resources, tips, and tricks to assist you in finding the perfect job, on base or off. There is a computer lab used in assistance with job skills training in basic computer skills; typing, resumes, and Microsoft Office.

Family Advocacy

Looking for couple counseling or just want to talk? Family Advocacy can assist you with any family issue you may have.

Army Family Team Building

Military life has unique issues and items that may cause some anxiety when transitioning from civilian life. On-line and classroom training is available to learn about life as an Army Family. The classes held serve to assist new military spouses and family members in understanding acronyms and also preparing them with the knowledge of who to contact in whatever sort of situation they encounter. This program could be called 'Army 101.'

Deployment Readiness

Deployment can be a highly emotional and stressful event. At Deployment Readiness, we can help ease your mind by letting you know what to expect and the best ways to prepare. The Family Readiness Group department has a deployment specialist who can teach you who to contact and to make programs known. They also give briefings on what to expect while on deployment, on the home front and overseas.

Army Community Service Center



Exceptional Family Member Program

Do you have a family member with special needs? Look to EFMP for information and support.

Yellow Ribbon Room

A program in the works for our Ft Sam location that has special communications equipment for family members to be able to contact their loved ones abroad

Sexual Assault Program

This is a new program that provides training to unit victim advocates. The job of advocate is a collateral duty for either E-6 or above or 1LT and above, which sends an advocate to be with the Soldier from the time of reporting the incident until it is resolved, either by court action or PCS. These advocates assure the victims are aware of their rights and the different reporting options; mainly restricted and unrestricted reporting. With the restricted notification, you are allowed medical attention, but there is no law enforcement or command involvement. The unrestricted allows you medical and legal assistance; and if necessary, command protection orders. The advocates will also sit in on any appointment and try to assist the victim in any way possible to make the experience a little less painful for them. It is not a counseling service, but there is referral to counseling available.



Army Community Service Center, Fort Sam Houston

BLDG 2797, Roadrunner Community Center
2010 Stanley Road
(210) 221-2705/2418
DSN: 471-2705/2418

TRICARE Information



www.tricare.osd.mil/
www.tricareonline.com/

San Antonio has two large Medical Treatment Facilities, some of the best in the nation; Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston and Wilford Hall Medical Center on Lackland Air Force Base.

If you have questions regarding the TRICARE Program, benefits, or eligibility criteria, please call 1(800) 444-5445. Call Wilford Hall TRICARE Service Center at (210) 292-3200 with any other questions or concerns.

Active Duty Members

An Active Duty person should try to seek all care at a military hospital or clinic. If you need care urgently and are not near a military hospital or clinic, go to the closest available medical facility. Even though emergency care for an active duty member is not paid for by the CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the United States) or TRICARE systems, don't panic! The military WILL pay for any truly urgent care you must have. If you are asked to pay a bill personally, you should pay the bill yourself making sure to bring any bills and receipts for any payments you made to your TRICARE office. Remember, they will only pay for emergency or urgent care, not for care that can clearly wait until you can get to a military hospital or clinic.

TRICARE Information



TRICARE Prime Enrollees

Managed care plans, like TRICARE, want patients to either get all care from their Primary Care Manager or from specialists that their Primary Care Manager refers them to.

It is important to call the Customer Service line within 24 hours, or as soon as possible, to let them know what has happened. They can authorize payment of the bills and to arrange any other care necessary. If your family members get medical care for an emergency, TRICARE will process the bill but you will have to pay a co-payment.

ALWAYS call the Health Care Finder for any care away from home that is not an obvious emergency. If you do not, it can be costly for you! If you are a TRICARE Prime enrollee and you get care from a civilian provider without a referral or authorization IT WILL BE EXPENSIVE. Even if the provider is CHAMPUS certified, you have to pay a \$300 per person or \$600 per family deductible and 50% of the allowed charges for all care that is not authorized. TRICARE calls this the Point of Service Option. The nearest TRICARE Service Center can answer questions you have about these payments.

Emergency Situations: There is no need to call anyone in the event of a TRUE Emergency! Go to the nearest hospital and get care.

Active Duty

TRICARE Plan Features All Active Duty Uniformed Service Members are enrolled in TRICARE Prime, the best and most comprehensive military healthcare program in the world.

Cost - There is no healthcare cost for Active Duty Service - Priority care at all Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs)

Benefits -no deductibles, no premiums, and no co-pays for authorized medical visits and prescriptions, first-priority treatment at all MTFs

Active Duty Family Members

TRICARE Plan Features Active Duty Family Members have three plans to choose from: Prime, Extra, and Standard. For Cost Comparisons, use this address: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricarecost.cfm>

Prime

Cost — No deductibles, no enrollment fees, no co-pays

Service — Access to MTFs or TRICARE network providers

Enrollment — Required

Advantage — Portability - when you PCS or go TDY, TRICARE Prime moves with you

Extra

Cost – Deductible and 20% cost share

Service – Only TRICARE network providers

Enrollment – Not required; just show military ID

Advantage – Claim paperwork submitted by provider

Eligibility – <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricareextra/default.cfm>

Standard

Cost — Deductible and 25% cost share and a co-pay

Service — Broad access to medical care providers

Enrollment — Not required; just show military I.D

Advantage — Freedom to choose any TRICARE-authorized provider; Fee-for-Service flexibility

Eligibility – <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/TRICAREStandard/default.cfm>

ECHO (Extended)

Active Duty Family Members with special qualifying conditions

Eligibility – <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/echo/echo-eligibility.cfm>

San Antonio Facts

San Antonio is the third largest city in the state of Texas and the ninth largest city in the U.S. Population according to 2003 Census was 1,144,646. San Antonio is the seat of Bexar County, Texas and is located in the south-central part of the state.

San Antonio is one of the nation's largest military centers and hosts Fort Sam Houston, Lackland AFB, Randolph AFB, and Brooks AFB; along with Camp Stanley, Camp Bullis, and Kelly USA as supplementary facilities. Tourism is an important industry focusing on the River Walk downtown and the Alamo. The historic Franciscan missions and huge Mexican quarter draw tourists as well.

History of San Antonio

The historic battle of the Alamo was fought 24 Feb. to 6 March 1836, when its defenders were massacred by Santa Anna's troops. Their heroic acts fueled the fighting spirit of the Texans' battle cry "Remember the Alamo!" Texas became an independent republic in 1836; San Antonio was incorporated as a city in 1837.

The city of San Antonio has been an important military center since WWII. It is also a leading livestock center and one of the largest produce exchange markets. The city's industries are highly diversified and tourism is also important to the economy.

San Antonio Weather

The annual average temperature of San Antonio is 69 degrees (F). In January it is 49 degrees (F) and July's average temperature is 85 degrees (F). The elevation is 701 feet above sea level. Below freezing temperatures occur on average 20 days per year. Rainfall averages 33 inches per year, however, heavy rains can occur with little warning. In July 2002, heavy rains for 3 days flooded roads, homes, and businesses in many areas of the city. Measurable snowfall may occur every 3 to 4 years.

FIRE ANTS – One of Texas's most unique annoyances are fire ants. Their bites leave blister-like marks on the skin. These small, almost black ants will aggressively attack in swarms if their mound is disturbed. To the unknowing, their dirt mounds look harmless, but fire ants have been known to kill animals. Their bites aren't usually fatal to humans, but are painful. Check your home's yard for infestation. There are several fire ant insecticides available on the market. Ask your local nurseryman for the best selection. (Source Greater SA Chamber of Commerce.)



LOW WATER CROSSING – As evidenced by the flooding in 2002, paying attention to low water crossings in times of rain can save your life. Drivers are urged, especially in sudden and violent thunderstorms to heed low water crossings. San Antonio does not have a large-scale drainage system outside the downtown area. Low water crossings all over the city flooded in July 2002 when 15 inches of rain fell each day for several days straight. The roads and neighborhoods near these crossings became the drainage route for large amounts of water. If you get stuck in the water at these sites, the San Antonio Police Department will ticket you hundreds of dollars. (Some data compiled from Greater SA Chamber of Commerce).